

Wildlife Habitat Farmer Of The Year ***Wildlife Steward Of The Year***

Dear Conservation District Supervisor:

It is time again to recognize conservation farmers who contribute to our state's quality of life. The *Wildlife Habitat Farmer and Wildlife Steward of the Year* program is a way to promote growers' efforts at improving wildlife habitat. The enclosed materials make it an easy, user-friendly promotion to run, with little cost to districts.

By recognizing district cooperators, this effort will enhance the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's efforts to work with landowners and land managers to enhance wildlife habitat on private land. It will improve public perception about farming and increase conservation districts' visibility.

The program evolved from discussions at the 1990 Washington Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting among Department of Wildlife, Conservation Commission, and WACD representatives. Districts will nominate farms and run the selection process and can guarantee its success.

Conservation districts are the best delivery system for improving habitat on private land. This new recognition program is another way to build public awareness of districts' role in the environmental arena.

Program guidelines and public relations materials are in this packet. We encourage you all to participate. The nomination deadline is **July 29, 2004**.

Respectfully yours,

Tracy Eriksen, Chair
Conservation Commission

Jeff Koenings, Director
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Paul Stoker, President
Washington Association of Conservation Districts





Wildlife Farmer of the Year (Over 50 acres)

Checklist for District Participation

The following is a quick checklist of activities for carrying out the Wildlife Farmer of the Year program. This will not be a labor-intensive project, but supervisors should assign people to tasks with completion dates.

Activity

Person/Deadline

Have district board review packet, discuss how the program supports district goals, and decide on participation.

Map out a plan and assign tasks, such as advising media, handling sign installation, filing out nomination forms, checking criteria.

Review selection criteria and make selection for District Wildlife Farm of the Year.

Order the free property sign provided by Fish and Wildlife (order form provided).

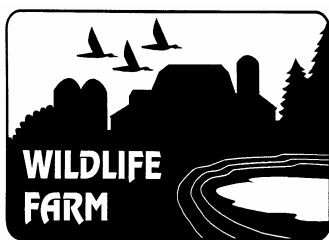
Meet with the selected farm operator/owner to talk about their involvement in a potential recognition event, i.e., a tour, presentation at a public meeting, or a community event.

Post property sign; distribute media materials to promote WFY.

Hold recognition event.

Evaluate the WFY program and incorporate it into the District's Annual Plan of Work.





Wildlife Farmer Of The Year (Over 50 acres)

CRITERIA SHEET

1. What are the landowner's overall objectives?
Examples to include: commercial crop production, total land base and percentage targeting fish and/or wildlife habitat, voluntary implementation of practices above and beyond BMP's; long range goals; educational outreach. (500 words or less).
2.
 - a) What species are found in the landowner's region? (Be as thorough as possible.)
 - b) What species are targeted by this landowner? (Be sure to highlight any species or concern.)
3. How long has this landowner been involved in habitat preservation and/or restoration?
4. What is the landowner's investment? i.e., time, money, land not in production, labor, machinery, materials.
5. Is permanent, year-around cover available? i.e., riparian areas, ditch borders, unmowed roadsides, timber stands, etc.
6. **SUPPORTING MATERIALS.** Please include color or b/w photos, site maps, drawn plans, etc.

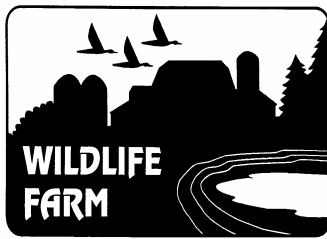
Farm Selected _____

Date _____

Nominating District _____

A joint project of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts, the Conservation Commission and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, funded through the Washington State Ecosystems Conservation Project.





Wildlife Farmer Of The Year (Over 50 acres)

State-wide NOMINATION

Name of Farm & Operator

Farm Type & Location

Nominating Conservation District

Number of Criteria Affirmed

Eligibility:

Any farm recognized as a District Wildlife Habitat Farm of the Year may be nominated for state-wide recognition

Deadline:

Nominations are due
July 29, 2004

Return Form To:

Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 47721
Olympia, WA 98504-7721

Executive Summary: [Overview of landowner's project(s)]

Conservation District Chair's Signature _____

A joint project of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts, the Conservation Commission and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, funded through the Washington State Ecosystems Conservation Project.





Wildlife Farmer Of The Year (Over 50 acres)

ROADSIDE SIGN ORDER FORM

Conservation District Name and Shipping Address

District Wildlife Farmer of the Year - Landowner Name and Address

Deadline for Sign Order: July 29, 2004

Send sign order form to:

Washington State Conservation Commission
PO Box 47721
Olympia, WA 98504-7721

Requesting and Confirming Signatures:

Conservation District Chairman

Manager, Upland Wildlife Restoration
(Spokane Office)

A joint project of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts, the Conservation Commission and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, funded through the Washington State Ecosystems Conservation Project.

